

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola

The Light

Vol. 67 Issue 3 March 2024



Celebrate Diversity *Strive for Justice* *Inspire Love*

How do we build Beloved Community?

From Your Board: President's Letter

Dear congregation,

Our friend Jack Comstock approached me several months ago to ask if we could host an event to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Beatles premiering on the Ed Sullivan show back in 1964. To me, it sounded like fun. Probably like most people, I've always held a soft spot for the Beatles. I was born 8 years after that famous Ed Sullivan show and two years after they broke up, but my mom was a "Beatles Girl." She said she was one of the people sitting around the TV screaming when they came on the tube. It's an interesting phenomenon for me to witness on TV, but I come from a more punk lineage where people throw themselves at each other as a form of dance. To each their own.



In preparation for the event, I did a little research on the moment itself. I guess I'd never put two and two together about the assassination of JFK only being a few months before the Beatles. The way it was described by historians was that America was still reeling from the president's death and needed a bright spot on the horizon, which apparently was filled by these four boys from Liverpool. Though I have no personal connection to that moment, I

do remember fondly buying the "Best of" collection in the early '90s and singing along to every song, very loudly, in my friend's car as we drove around Chicago. Their music has always been so ubiquitous that we all know most of their hits without having to have even purchased a record. That's how I knew the Beatles and later grew to appreciate them.

DIRECTORY

See our website, uupensacola.org, for updates and a complete list of teams

Office Administrator

(850) 475-9077, uupensacola@gmail.com

Community Minister

Rev. Maggie Lovins

Governing Board

President: Scott Satterwhite

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Adult Exploration: Trista Blouin

Buildings & Grounds: Ed King

Caring: Trista Blouin, Rev. Maggie Lovins, Marcy Moreland (caring@uupensacola.org)

Children's Religious Education Coordinator:

Teresa Latendress (cre@uupensacola.org)

Communications: Joe Vinson

(communications@uupensacola.org)

Denominational Affairs: Scott Satterwhite

Finance: Laurie Winterberg

Fun and Fellowship: Trista Blouin

Leadership Development: Laura Keith King

Membership: Lauren Anzaldo

(membership@uupensacola.org)

Outreach: Laura Keith King

Safer Congregation: Denise Gunn

Social Justice: Paula Montgomery & Scott Satterwhite

Sunday Services: Nancy Hagman

I also knew them as the standard bearers for music for generations. My favorite band is Nirvana. Always has been and always will be. I remember Kurt Cobain talking how much he liked the Beatles and wanted his band to be like the Beatles. He said something the effect of how the Beatles went from "Love me Do" to "Sgt. Pepper" within three years. I guess we have the Maharishi and lots of drugs to thank for that. Sadly for Kurt Cobain (RIP), the drugs didn't do the same for him or his band, but I digress. If you listen to the Beatles' music, from the Ed Sullivan show until they were singing on the rooftop in that famous last concert, you get to see growth that maybe comes from aging a few years and also the weariness of living through a very tumultuous time—not only the war in Vietnam but also the strife in the streets. It seemed like these were rough years, so it's interesting for me to see all the young women screaming as these four "long haired" men as they hit the stage. It's also kind of cool.

What I appreciated with UUCP hosting the event was that it gave us the opportunity to get a little nostalgic, but also to not get fixated on the nostalgia. Remembrance is important, and it's important to celebrate youth and youth culture. It's also cool to just have a nice night where you're around your friends and everyone is singing along. We don't get enough of that.

One of my favorite moments of the night was looking out and seeing everyone singing along to "Hey, Jude," as it's being played in its original day—the vast sea of humanity in the room as the

band played the song—and our friends all sitting around in the congregation, swaying in their seats singing “Na na na na na na”

Jack Comstock really did a mitzvah for us when he introduced this event, and I think it’ll be one that we can look back on with fond memories. A memory celebrating a memory, during a tumultuous time in the world. The overall message is still relevant: we get by with a little help from our friends. It was a nice night. Thanks, John, Paul, George, and Ringo for all the memories...and thanks to Jack for keeping the spirit of youth alive in UUCP.

♥,

Scott

Scott Satterwhite



Sunday Services in March

March 3, 2024

The Historical Women of UU

Presenter: Pat Gleich and UU Women

Women played a significant role in forming and establishing both the Universalist and Unitarian fellowships in the US, and as has often happened with women throughout history, their contributions may not be widely known.

We will have with us in the service and speaking dramatically several of the women who were significant to not only the forming of what is now the Unitarian Universalist Association, but as champions of progressive and human rights causes over the last 250 years.

Second Hour: Heathen Kinship meeting

The first Sunday of the month is always Manna Sunday! The collection basket will be in the lobby to drop off items. Most requested items from Manna Food Pantries include canned fruit in 100% juice, fruit cups (20 oz. or less), soups (low sodium), canned dinners (20 oz. or less), and canned tomatoes (16 oz. or less).

March 10, 2024

Humans and Invisible Forces

Guest Speaker: Judith A. Bense, Ph.D., University President and Professor Emerita, Department of Anthropology

This talk will discuss the Anthropological perspective of the development of human intelligence and the consequent development of invisible but powerful forces present in all human societies. These forces enable us to cope with our difficulties and questions of life and death.

Second Hour: Newcomer Orientation

March 17, 2024

Our Solemn Promise

Presenter: Lauren Anzaldo, EdE, LCSW, CAP and UUCP member

A covenant is a solemn promise that we make to one another. This service will address the meaning of covenants and their importance. Covenants appear within many religious traditions. As UUs, our congregational covenant binds us together on our journey to be our best selves and to uphold our values within our church and outside its walls.

Second Hour: Heathen Kinship meeting

March 24, 2024

"Hosanna and the Fierce Urgency of Now"

Presenter: Joe Vinson, UUCP member

This Palm Sunday, we discuss how to prepare a way for the future we want without succumbing to despair.

This service will include our "5th" Sunday offering to be donated to the Pensacola Abortion Rights Taskforce.

March 30, 2024

Flower Communion

Presenter: Rev Maggie Lovins, Community Minister UU Church of Pensacola

Come, enjoy the beauty of and olfactory splendor of our Flower Communion service as we celebrate the renewal of life and hope that is at the heart of the Easter and Passover season! This ritual was originally created by Czechoslovakian Unitarian minister Norbert Capek in 1923. Rev. Maggie invites everyone to bring a favorite flower from their home, a field, or the roadside. As you enter the sanctuary, please place the flowers in the vases at the front of the dais. We will process at the end of the service forward where we will choose a flower, then exchange it with a neighbor, bringing to light our beautiful similarities and our unique differences! This symbolic gesture brings us soulfully and spiritually together as one and celebrates the emergence of springtime and the rebirth and restoration that occurs both within us and in the world at large.

The children will be included in this service with an Easter Egg Hunt following the service.

March at UUCP

March Sunday Sweets



Mark your calendars: Sunday Sweets for the month of March will be held on Sunday, March 10th.

Curious About Coffee and Conversation 2.0

The 3-month pilot project for a neighborhood-based fellowship gathering, "Coffee and Conversation 2.0," was extended and will begin the 7th month in April.

If you'd like to host a neighborhood monthly meeting where your fellow UUs can spend congenial time with kindred folks, contact Laurie Winterberg for more information.



Fifth Sunday Collection in March will benefit Pensacola Abortion Rights Taskforce

Florida's citizen-led initiative known as the "Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion" collected nearly 1 million petition signatures. To be exact, 993,387 petitions were submitted and certified, which is 100,000 signatures more than the 891,523 petitions required for the amendment to be included on the 2024 ballot. The Florida Division of Elections has confirmed that the item will appear on the ballot as Amendment 4. The goal is to codify the right to reproductive healthcare into Florida law by creating a constitutional amendment that explicitly blocks the implementation of laws that prohibit, delay, or restrict abortion access. Citizen's initiatives such as this one became necessary after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022 with the case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, commonly known as the *Dobbs* decision, which sent the issue of abortion laws back to the states to regulate.

The local organization Pensacola Abortion Rights Taskforce (PART) was instrumental to the successful petition drive. PART worked with the petition sponsor, Floridians Protecting Freedom, to collect hundreds of signatures and educate voters about the amendment. PART is a local nonpartisan group of people joining together to focus on a single issue: reproductive rights. One of PART's conveners, Robin Blyn, noted: "Those younger than me deserve the same rights that I have enjoyed: the right to bodily autonomy, the right to decide whether to see a pregnancy to term or not. Without those rights, we are something less than human."

In addition to volunteering with the petition drive, PART members have conducted community outreach and engaged in an ongoing education campaign to ensure that Pensacolians know that abortion is still legal in Florida up to 15 weeks of pregnancy. The state Supreme Court is considering a case regarding the legality of further restrictions. If it passes in November 2024, Amendment 4 would make these restrictions verboten until the point of viability.

PART also has created and freely distributed colorful bags containing items useful for reproductive health, including condoms and a pregnancy test. The organization raises funds to purchase the items in these "repro kits."

UUCP congregants can support PART during the next Fifth Sunday collection, which will be held on March 24. (Yes, that is the fourth Sunday in March, but this year Easter falls on the fifth Sunday in March, and we will be holding our annual Flower Communion on that day.) PART can accept cash or donations through the program CashApp at \$part850. While all donations benefit the organization, and there are no paid staff, PART is not a registered 501c3. For more information, visit <https://www.part850.org/>, or find Pensacola Abortion Rights Taskforce on Facebook or part.850 on Instagram.

Now and Then — The 2024-25 Pledge Drive — THANK YOU

As this year's successful annual budget drive concludes, a number of UUCP folks are to be THANKED:

Jack Comstock
Nancy Hagman
Laura Keith King
Marybeth Ramsey
Leah Fox

Bolton Ellenburg
Erin Renfroe

Thank you!
Laurie Winterberg - for the Finance Team

Kids' Corner



Hello, Unitarian congregation,

We will be having an Easter egg hunt next month on the March 31st after service if you would like to donate items for the Easter egg hunt.

You may drop them off at the front office. We are still in need of volunteers. If you would like to do this, I will have a sign-up sheet Sunday for volunteers to sign. Please remember that you must sign your children in. I will have the sign in sheet at the little table in the corner. Please also remember that you must pick your children up by 11:15 after service. Also, remember to sign them out. And if they are old enough to leave on their own, I will have something for you to sign giving permission.

Thank you, and have a great month,

Teresa Latendress, CREC

Readers' Zoom Group Resumes

The dates/times for the upcoming 4 months of the Zoom Readers' Groups are:

Monday, March 11
 Monday, April 8
 Monday, May 13
 and
 Monday, June 10

All are 2nd Monday's of the month.

Zoom login info will be sent by Simple Church email a few days before each session. Sessions last an hour.

If you've not yet attended, these group meetings are an informal gathering of our Members and Friends who enjoy reading. There are no assigned books to read. Participants share reviews of books and authors they would recommend.

Questions? Contact Laurie Winterberg.

March LUUnch BUUnch

For March's 2nd Wednesday, the 13th, we'll venture to a location visited 5...6 years ago, I'm guessing, and the restaurant that was then at Marcus Point Golf Club (Iron) has since left (for downtown Pensacola) to be replaced by A Rustyc Spoon, at 2500 Oak Pointe Dr., ph. 850-484-3770. The price range is \$\$, the Rating 5.0, and the menu mostly "hand held" I think because the menu was hard to tie down, partly because the elaborate menu toward the bottom of the Google page was a restaurant of the same name... in Virginia; there continues to be, I believe, a mobile Rustyc Spoon here in Pensacola, the same ownership I think I read in the PNJ a month or so ago... Please advise your possible attendance by Sunday, 10 March, for the 1 PM lunch on 13 March, at MP Golf Club.



And now a look back at the Lunch Bunch of Valentine's Day, Wed., 14/2: it might have more aptly happened on April Fool's day (1/4/24), or being someone's intentional exercise in "getting punked" (I think is the right term), as when you look forward to a positive experience and the almost uniform experience of us six was "this is the worst Lunch Bunch" we've ever had.

As I wrote for the Feb. Light, Sree's setting promised a little "elegance." However, the food receptacles were bowls, plates and cups of styrofoam (polystyrene) with plastic forks, etc. (carried on a stainless steel dished tray, on a plastic carrying tray). The menu is in English but the menu items, though spelled in English, are not translated, so you can pronounce them but they have no meaning, and the staff doesn't seem to know the American English for the food item. The word "crepe" is used on many dishes but instead of a large thin pancake 6-8" diameter, it comes out perhaps 15-18" diameter, folded to one-third width (5-6") and 15" + long, but very little food stuffing (maybe curry) on the inside, plus some thin (but flavorful) sauces (in styro or plastic cups).

By my 2nd visit to their counter to ask a question, I had the sensation that we were sent to Sree's Kitchen to tutor them in how to cater to a "typical" American lunch party. Normally, start with asking for preferred beverage choices. Don't serve one member with his preferred entree until you've gotten orders from the rest of the party and are ready serve them all fairly soon afterwards. Don't display "representative" pictures of the menu's food items unless you can meet both the quantity and the implied ingredients shown in the picture. Don't serve cheap looking dinner rolls with an Indian dish and say "we don't make bread" in our kitchen; if its not appropriate to a meal in an Indian restaurant, why serve it? If the prepared food (curried meat/vegetables ?) inserted into the folds of the thin crepe are so random and thin as to look almost accidental, why make the crepe so large? And if the thin crepe is served empty, intentionally (perhaps a menu item), with only sauces for dipping, how does that come to a value of \$9.99?

To temper my above remarks, and as we were fortunate enough to be joined by Annabelle and Beverly Miller (recovering from brain surgery but able and willing to give some interesting details), Beverly responded to my suggestion for a review of her lunch, below:

It was nice to see everyone for lunch on this sunny day. Sree's Kitchen was clean; staff was courteous and tried hard to satisfy in spite of culture and communication difficulties. The menu was difficult to understand. I'm glad I studied it online before our visit. I tried idli (soft rice and urad dal cakes) and goat curry. That was two separate menu items. Rice cakes would be pretty plain by themselves. The goat curry was too spicy for my taste and mostly bones in soupy curry with very little meat. I was also missing vegetables or something in the curry. Mango Lassi (yogurt drink) saved me from the heat and lack of substance in the meal. Maybe I don't understand Indian food.

Better luck next time, I hope.

New Member Profile: Claire Helton **How This Chaplain Evolved to Humanist UU**

By Dolly Berthelot

New UU Claire Helton has returned to her native Pensacola after some major life changes. She had been ordained a minister in the Alliance of Baptists, served two “liberal Christian” churches, one in Waco, TX, and another in Monroe, LA., and, after six years of church work, was at Vanderbilt University pursuing a Master of Theology. She intended that to be a stepping stone to a PhD in Hebrew Bible. Then HALT! DRASTIC UTURN!



Nudged into reflection by the forced solitude of the Covid pandemic, she became a proclaimed Humanist, left Vanderbilt, came home, and since last summer is a happy member of UUCP. “I LOVED the Vanderbilt classes,” Claire explains, “Ancient goddesses especially. But, as it turns out, Biblical studies programs are shrinking, the field has become cutthroat, and I am not of a cutthroat disposition.” (Anyone attending her Dec. Wholly Family sharing and Jan. 22 service on love might guess that.) “So, for my own mental health and my family’s financial health, we moved back home to Pensacola after one year in Nashville.”

Claire’s family includes husband Zach Helton, now a Sacred Heart chaplain who attends UUCP sporadically, and their sons James, 8, and Peter, 6, who are in our Religious Education program (RE). The couple lives on Swan Lake, near the airport. They are glad to be near parents and to have UUCP in their lives.

Their adult Baptist faith was not the strict Southern Baptist they grew up with, so the change was not as drastic as might be assumed. They loved the rich church support that held their entire family close, but, during the quieter period of Covid, Claire clearly realized her increasingly humanist perspective required a departure—“akin to a necessary divorce from someone you love.” She explains beautifully: “The journey from liberal Christian clergy to liberal UU clergy is really only about as long as the journey from ‘divinity out there’ to ‘divinity in here.’ I imagine peeling back a painting of ‘God’ only to realize there was a mirror underneath the whole time.”

"I became familiar with UU's when I was a pastor in the Alliance of Baptists and the UU's would show up at the same rallies and social causes that we did," Claire recalls. "I knew then we were kindred spirits. I took some time away from church life after stepping down from the pastorate in 2021. I found my way to UUCP knowing that I still craved spiritual community despite now identifying as Humanist. I visited off and on for a while before joining. Now I feel both held and free."

Claire graduated in 2008 from Pensacola High School with a coveted International Baccalaureate diploma, in 2011 earned a BA from Stetson University with a double major in religious studies and English, and in 2015 a Masters in Divinity from Baylor University—with her 8-day-old firstborn in tow! "That made a great photo," she smiles.

A healthcare chaplain since moving home in 2022, Claire is now a hospice chaplain with Vitas Healthcare, and loving it. "Hospice work allows me to connect with people on a deep level without pretense," Claire says, "Or at least with a lot less of it than most of us tend to carry around."

She does a lot of driving around, meeting people in their homes, caring for both patients and family members as well as the nursing staff who must daily deal with death. "I see the goal of my work as strengthening the existential resilience of those I encounter," she says, "which looks like helping them identify their spiritual resources and exploring ways to cope with the challenges they face."

"For the first time in my life, having to make so many phone calls to new patients/families, this millennial is utilizing the 'phone' feature of my phone more than texting or email," Claire grins.

Beyond school and work, Claire has always enjoyed singing and playing piano. She adds, "My husband's bachelor's was in film and we met doing high school theater together, so the Oscar and Tony award nights are a much bigger deal in our house than the Super Bowl." They recently flew to Sundance Film Festival in Salt Lake City with the bonus of visiting family, including a two-year-old nephew who has just learned to say "Aunt Care."

"Aunt Care" has some ideas for UUCP she isn't ready to discuss in print yet. "Mostly I'm just still enjoying the relief of being one of the gathered people," Claire says, "after so many years of being responsible for the gathering..."

UUA Statement on the Humanitarian Catastrophe in Gaza and Israel

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) joins the chorus of voices urging an immediate and total ceasefire, the admittance of humanitarian aid, and the restoration of power and water to Gaza to prevent the further staggering loss of human life that is inevitable under the current conditions. We support the call from the United Nations for the evacuation order to be rescinded, warning it will have "devastating humanitarian consequences." We join a wide range of faith-based, non-governmental, and humanitarian organizations across the globe in condemning the government of Israel's ongoing bombardment, "total siege," and forced displacement through an evacuation order of more than 1.1 million residents of Gaza in retaliation for Hamas' atrocious October 7 attacks. We do so in line with our 2002 Action of Immediate Witness, "Toward Peace and Justice in the Middle East."

To read the whole statement, please visit the following link:

<https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/catastrophe-gaza-and-israel>

**The Unitarian Universalist Church of Pensacola
9888 Pensacola Boulevard
Pensacola, FL 32534**

TO:



Deadline for the April *Light*:
Thursday, March 21

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